

Digital Archives Publishes Indiana Boys' School Database

INDIANAPOLIS (May 3, 2012) – The Indiana Digital Archives recently added the Indiana Boys' School database to its extensive online collection of historical records. The database includes records of approximately 12,700 committed male juveniles and contains names, inmate numbers, counties of conviction, and dates received to the Indiana Boys' School between 1867 and 1937. Aliases and additional information may be found in the "Notes" field. The database was compiled from admission registers, inmate packets, commitment books and other sources.

The 1867 Indiana General Assembly created the House of Refuge for Juvenile Offenders. Governor Conrad Baker selected the site, located on 225 acres of land in Plainfield, Indiana. The name changed in 1883 to the Indiana Reform School for Boys, and again in 1903 to the Indiana Boys' School. Judges from any criminal or circuit court in Indiana could commit juvenile males charged with crimes, incorrigibility, or delinquency. The function of the school was to reform juvenile offenders through education and vocational training.

Additional information is available at the Indiana State Archives for many Boys' School inmates whose names are included. There are inmate packets for most inmates, as well as entries in the commitment books, medical record cards, and index cards prepared by the Board of State Charities and Corrections. Researchers should contact the Indiana State Archives at arc@icpr.in.gov to learn what records are available on an inmate and to order reproductions of documents.

The Indiana Boys' School database along with indexes to many other popular Indiana State Archives collections can be viewed at indianadigitalarchives.org. Friends of the Indiana State Archives volunteers have been hard at work for nearly two decades creating indices for many of the state's records. From before statehood in 1816 and on through to its approaching bicentennial, Indiana has been home to thousands of settlers and immigrants. The Digital Archives enables Hoosiers and citizens worldwide to view the vast collection of historical and vital records housed at the State Archives.

About the Indiana Digital Archives

The [Indiana Digital Archives](http://indianadigitalarchives.org) is operated by the State Archives Division of the Indiana Commission on Public Records. The result of a cooperative partnership made possible by a grant from the Library of Congress and administered by the Washington State Archives, the Digital Archives has more than 2.8 million searchable records online. Other partners include the states of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oregon. The Digital Archives was named a 2011 Best State Website by "Family Tree Magazine."

About the Indiana State Archives

The Indiana State Archives collects records of historical value from all branches of Indiana state and local government, including governmental history, census and naturalization records for families, selected medical, military and criminal records, records of land ownership, maps, blueprints and photographs. Visit the [Collections Page](#) for a detailed listing of these resources, including links to online exhibits and electronic indices of select records.